

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
receiving a plurality of requests for unicast transmission streams;
providing the plurality of unicast transmission streams;
synchronizing the plurality of unicast transmission streams, wherein synchronizing the plurality of unicast transmission streams is performed by slowing down one or more of the unicast streams at a rate that depends on when the request for the unicast transmission stream is received; and
replacing the synchronized plurality of unicast transmission streams with a multicast stream.
- 2-4. (Canceled)
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a single movie provider and a single movie theater share a single encryption key not shared by any other movie provider and movie theater.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of unicast transmission streams contain a single pre-recorded event.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of unicast transmission streams are started at different times.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
delivering the plurality of separate unicasts to a plurality of unicast recipients
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
receiving a plurality of requests for the unicast from a plurality of unicast requestors.

11. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

synchronizing a plurality of separate unicasts, wherein synchronizing the plurality of separate unicasts includes differentially adjusting a delivery rate of each unicasts so that the unicasts converge at [[a]] similar point within a predetermined time frame; and

converging the plurality of synchronized unicasts into a single multicast, wherein the unicasts have been converged at the same point within each unicast by slowing down one or more of the unicast streams at a rate that depends on when the request for the unicast stream is received.

12. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

synchronizing a plurality of separate unicasts, wherein synchronizing the plurality of separate unicasts includes dynamically altering each unicast in an undetectable manner so that each of the plurality of unicasts converge at a similar point within each unicast; and

converging the plurality of synchronized unicasts into a single multicast, wherein the unicasts have been converged at the same point within each unicast by slowing down one or more of the unicast streams at a rate that depends on when the request for the unicast stream is received.

13. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

synchronizing a plurality of separate unicasts; and

converging the plurality of synchronized unicasts into a single multicast, wherein the unicasts have been converged at the same point within each unicast by slowing down one or more of the unicast streams at a rate that depends on when the request for the unicast stream is received and by determining when the plurality of unicasts have converged to the same point; and

converting each of the plurality of unicasts into a single multicast.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein converging the plurality of synchronized unicasts into a single multicast comprises:

terminating each of the plurality of synchronized unicasts; and
replacing each of the terminated plurality of synchronized unicasts with a multicast.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein converging the plurality of synchronized unicasts into a single multicast, wherein the single multicast replaces the plurality of unicasts.

17-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
delivering a plurality of separate unicasts to a plurality of unicast recipients.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
receiving a plurality of requests for the unicast from a plurality of unicast requestors.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein converging the plurality of synchronized unicasts into a single multicast comprises:
terminating each of the plurality of synchronized unicasts; and
replacing each of the terminated plurality of synchronized unicasts with a multicast.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein converging the plurality of synchronized unicasts into a single multicast, wherein the single multicast replaces the plurality of unicasts.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising:
delivering the plurality of separate unicats to a plurality of unicast recipients.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising:
receiving a plurality of requests for the unicast from a plurality of unicast requestors.